

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
March 25, 2016

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Michael Schindel – The Nature Conservancy
Carri Pirosko – ODA
Jim Auburn – City of Port Orford

Fire resistant plant garden

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation funding will become available on April 1, 2016. Alexis has talked with Bandon City Manager Chris Good about the fire resistant plant demonstration garden project and directed her to Public Works. Alexis has also contacted the Greater Bandon Association to see if they were interested in participating.

Mapping Project Update

Alexis has been working with Emilie Henderson of the Institute for Natural Resources. Emilie is a modeler and she is working on the Random Forest Modeling which will provide an output of areas of potential spread for gorse. Emilie provided Alexis with data collection locations and Alexis has been out to 3 of those locations. She is also training the CoosWA crew leader, Dave Nelson, in data collection so that it can get completed in a timely manner. There is quite a bit of data to collect in Coos and Curry Counties. Alexis has been talking with Erin Minster about collecting points in Curry County. Erin is reviewing the shapefiles to determine what is feasible and Alexis will help fill in the rest.

Emilie says that she could have an interim draft product showing the gorse signature that emerged from the aerial photos as a first attempt to quantify the extent of gorse captured in 2014 within a month which would put us in a place to present some of that information at the April outreach meeting.

Jim Seeley wonders to what extent we know or don't know what other photographic evidence is out there so that we are not reinventing the wheel. Jim Auburn had lunch with Dustin Harrington from Curry SWCD. He was going to look at gorse in Port Orford off of Paradise Point Road which would be a great area to concentrate on and the aerial imagery could be helpful to use.

Michael Schindel mentioned that LiDAR imagery might be a possibility. He suggested following up with DOGAMI to find out when it was flown. Depending on the year, that imagery could be used as a comparison to our data. Michael will send Alexis contact information for a DOGAMI representative.

Demonstration Project

Jim, Marie and Alexis are meeting with Eric Mruz (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) later this afternoon to plan for the Coquille Point gorse removal project, funded by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and WRCA. Jim would like to do a photo project with this project to show what it takes to do gorse control on a steep slope. This will be a good educational challenge to undertake. Jim has a drone that could take photos to help with the photo history.

Alexis has been talking with Todd Tripp of the Coquille Tribe about the Pacific View Living Center property. He has some concerns about the project such as erosion after the gorse is removed. Alexis is working on setting up a meeting with Todd and Debbie Wilson, the Executive Director of Pacific View.

Detailed photos of the Coquille Point project could be used to aid in showing the Tribe and Pacific View what a gorse control project on steep slopes looks like.

Marie mentioned talking with a private landowner in the Coquille watershed who's neighboring property has gorse on the property line. She is very concerned about spread to her property and was wondering what she could do to control the gorse. She was asking if there was a program available for gorse control. Alexis mentioned wanting to create a "Homeowner's Guide to Gorse Control" pamphlet which would be funded under the NFWF grant. Carri mentioned that she has received calls from several landowners who are concerned about gorse, as well. She mentioned an OSU Extension publication that could be available to hand out at meeting. Carri also discussed the Gorsebusters's grant award from the Oregon State Weed Board. They were awarded \$1,000 to hold 2-3 gorse control workshops with an emphasis on non-chemical control. Carri also mentioned that ODA is putting on a workshop/forum on English Ivy with the intent to put on additional forums every other year with a focus on a specific weed. Gorse was mentioned as one of these forum subjects. Alexis plans on attending the forum (set for Tuesday, March 29) and will think about how it could be adapted to focus on gorse.

Marie stated that the Coos County Forestry Department has submitted a grant to OPRD to create mountain bike trails. Gorse control would be part of this project. They will know more information in May.

Jim Seeley has had contact with 2 landowners in the donut hole, both interested in preparing their properties to put on the market. They are motivated but there is a lot of work to be done. Interestingly, one property was zoned for real estate 100 years ago. This zoning still stand, pending availability to water and power.

Strategic Action Plan

The attached table of goals and strategies was developed by the Strategic Action Plan committee and compiled by Hannah McDonald.

Alexis would like to create a prioritization scheme based on several factors including size and density of gorse, land use, land ownership, proximity to community centers, and public safety/fire risk. Alexis will work on this scheme as well as a first draft of a written plan.

Outreach

Alexis has set a date for the next public outreach meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 6-8pm at the Bandon Public Library. She plans on updating the public on the mapping/modeling project and demonstration projects.

Jim suggested finding the OSU Extension information to hand out at the meeting.

Alexis spoke at the Oregon Society of American Foresters meeting on March 17, 2016 in Coos Bay. She discussed gorse, the GAG, and the mapping project. The presentation was well received and a couple members pointed out the importance of having BPA and Coos Curry Electric on board with projects.

Alexis will work on printing "Gorse Action Group" pamphlets to provide to members to hand out during the upcoming festival and market season.

Jim Seeley mentioned the Gorse Blossom Festival. This will be an annual festival with the first event held in February 2017. WRCA was approached to be sponsor and GAG should also have a role in the festival. Alexis asked what the overall intent of this festival was because she has heard concern that it would be a celebration of gorse. Jim said it is an effort to do an out of season tourist draw and focus on the history of

gorse in Bandon, including the fires. Carri would like to make sure that the group that is organizing this won't do the "beauty of the flower" spin, such as mustard festivals in California. Mayor Jim can help advertise some of this; he will be at the City Council meeting the afternoon of the public meeting in Bandon. He says to send him public meeting information or GAG pamphlets to share.

April & May Meetings

April will be a busy month for many so we will hold off on a face-to-face meeting until May. Alexis will send out a Doodle poll to schedule.